(c) if so, the number of doctors appointed on *ad-hoc* and daily wage basis since 1978; and

(d) the reasons for this discrimination?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Upgradation of Government hospitals in Assam

1975. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plan to upgrade the Government hospitals functioning at present in the State of Assam during the current financial year; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b)Yes, Sir. There is a proposal to augment the facilities by providing assistance for equipment upto Rs. 1.00 crore for selected District hospitals of Assam.

Transfusion of untested blood

†1976. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the blood collecting units and doctors who are transfusing blood are not testing it prior to its use;

(b) if so, the action being taken against such units and doctors;

(c) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned, 'Bahar se Kharida Rakt Sankramit Nikla, Mare'ez ko Jaan ke Lale', which appeared in The Rashtriya Sahara' dated the 6th June, 2002; and

(d) the number of such cases which came to the notice of Government from January, 2001 to till date and the action taken by Government in each case?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) No, Sir, All blood units are tested before transfusion according to provisions of Drugs and Cosmetics Rules.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes, Sir. This news-item on the incident relating to supply of blood unit to a patient in DDU hospital, not issued from the blood bank of the hospital, has been brought to our notice.

(d) Apart from the case mentioned in the news-item mentioned in The Ftashtriya Sahara dated 6th June, 2002, one more instance has been reported from Uttar Pradesh in which four blood banks were reportedly involved in illegal trade of blood. The proprietors of these blood banks were arrested by the police and prosecution has been launched under the I.P.C. and Section 18 of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act by the UP Police and the State Drugs Control Authorities respectively. In the case reported in Rashtriya Sahara, a case has been registered under different sections of Indian Penal Code. The accused has been arrested and the matter is under investigation by the police. Also, the regulatory authorities have tightened vigil to prevent such incidents and the Medical Superintendent of DDU hospital, Delhi has been advised appropriate preventive steps.

Shortage of Dental Professors/Readers

†1977. SHRI HARENDRA SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are contemplating a plan to ban opening of new dental colleges during next five years keeping in view shortage of Professors and Readers in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for this shortage; and

(c) the steps taken/being taken by Government to redress the shortage of Professors and Readers in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) No decision about banning of opening of new dental colleges has been taken by the Government so far.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.